

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-16 are rejected. Claims 1-11 and 14-16 are presently pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 14-16 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Greener et al. (6,207,361), indicating that Greener et al. disclose an imaging element comprising a layer of biaxially oriented sheet adhered to the bottom surface of a base wherein said biaxially oriented sheet adhered to the bottom surface has a surface roughness average of between about 0.30 to 2.00 microns, any suitable biaxially oriented polyolefin sheet may be used for the sheet on the topside of the laminated base of the invention, but PET is preferred, the composite biaxially oriented sheets are preferred and are conveniently manufactured by coextrusion of the core and surface layers, followed by biaxial orientation, the base material comprises a polymeric polyether antistat, comprises a small amount of a compatibilizer, and is stretched to a ratio of between 1.5 and 4.5 times the original dimensions. The Examiner indicates that, given the teachings of the reference, the instant claims are anticipated.

The Examiner also indicates that Applicant's arguments filed 8/3/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner indicates that while the reference does not specifically discuss the limitation for the surface roughness, the material of the reference comprises the same polymers/materials that are employed in the examples of the instant specification, thus the Examiner takes the position that the material of the Greener et al. reference does have a bottom surface having a surface roughness meeting the instant claim limitations.

The Examiner is directed to the following references:
US2002/0114977 A1 and US 6,783,889 B2 by Kubota et al. The references teach blending polyester and polyether imide [0030 or col. 5, lines 6-13] preferably with a compatibilizer [0031 or col. 5, lines 14-20], casting a film and stretching the cast film [0122 or col. 26 lines 1 - 37] to obtain surface roughness Ra values of 6.5 to 15 nm (0.0065 to 0.015 micron) (Examples 8-11 and Comparative

examples 5-7; Table 2, as well as col. 18, line 58 – col. 20, line 3) as opposed to Ra values greater than 0.3 micron as presently claimed. These references indicate that, although the materials are the same or similar to the present claims, the roughness falls outside the claims. Therefore, the roughness is not an inherent property of the materials.

As stated in the arguments filed 8/3/2005, Greener discloses imaging elements, such as photographic, electrostatographic and thermal imaging elements and, in particular, to imaging elements comprising a support, an image-forming layer, and an electrically-conductive layer. More specifically, Greener relates to electrically conductive layers comprising electrically conductive polymers which can be applied during film extrusion and are integral to the photographic film support and to the use of such electrically conductive layers in imaging elements for such purposes as providing protection against the generation of static electrical charges.

The present invention relates to a method of forming a roughened sheet comprising extruding a polymer sheet wherein at least one surface layer comprises polyether polymeric antistat, extrudable polymer, and compatibilizer; stretching said polymer sheet by a ratio of at least 3:1 in at least one direction, such that said at least one surface layer has a roughness of greater 0.3 Ra.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. Although the Examiner indicates that Greener discloses a bottom surface which has a surface roughness average of between about 0.30 to 2.00 microns, the Applicants have been unable to find any mention of roughness or a bottom surface having a surface roughness average of between about 0.30 to 2.00 microns. Therefore, Greener fails to expressly mention the limitation of the present claims for forming a roughened sheet or forming at least one surface layer has a roughness of greater 0.3 Ra and fails to anticipate the present claims. In addition, as discussed above, Greener fails to inherently disclose the limitation of the present claims.

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the Office Action and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request early allowance to obviate the appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.